Ex. Doc. No. 28.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

PENITENTIARY—DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTTING

A report of the Inspectors of the Penitentiary of the District of Columbia, for the year 1847.

JANUARY 26, 1848.

Read, and referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia.

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

I herewith transmit the annual report of the Inspectors of the Penitentiary for the District of Columbia, made in compliance with the act of the 3d March, 1829.

JAMES K. POLK.

Washington, January 18, 1848.

Washington City, D. C., Inspector's room, January 14, 1848.

Sir: The Board of Inspectors of the Penitentiary for the District of Columbia, having, as directed by law, prepared their 19th annual report, beg leave, respectfully, to submit the same to you, and request that it may be communicated to Congress.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

G. W. PHILLIPS, Secretary of the Board.

To the President of the United States.

To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States.

The act of Congress, of the 3d March, 1829, makes it obligatory upon the Board of Inspectors to supervise the financial and internal regulations of this institution and report upon its condition, which we perform with pleasure. We have, from our own observation in the discharge of our official duties, as well as from information derived from an authentic source, found that the institution has been managed under the supervision of those to whom its management has been confided, in virtue of the law under which it was established, during the past year, with an eye to the public good, giving, at the same time, a proper and humane consideration to the wants and comforts of those unfortunate individuals who have been confined within its walls by the stern justice of the law, and that the condition and general interests of the institution were never more prosperous than at present, nor its objects more fully realized.

We would most respectfully call particular attention to the reports of the officers more immediately connected with its daily transactions, and hereunto annexed, for the details of its operations during the past year, which renders it impracticable for the inspectors to say anything, as they know, from practical observation, that it has been conducted in accordance with the law for its general government, and with a due regard both to economy and the interests of the institution. Attention has been particularly paid to the food and clothing of the prisoners, both of which are compatible with the law of its creation, their rations being both wholesome and plentiful, and their garments plain but comfortable; due regard has been paid to the police and regularity in the management of its internal affairs, and while the government and discipline of the prison has been rigidly and energetically enforced, we have invariably paid that attention to the inmates which humanity dictated.

The estimate for the support of the penitentiary for the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1849, has been transmitted, through the Register, to the Secretary of the Treasury, that it may be laid before Congress, and embraced in the general appropriation, as has

been hitherto advised from that department.

By reference to the financial report of the institution, which also accompanies this, it will be seen that the excess of expenditures exceeds its income \$9,729 39; and it being required of the inspectors, if the penitentiary shall fail to support itself, to state in their annual report the reason for such failure, we are compelled to reiterate the reasons previously offered, year after year, namely, the small number of prisoners in confinement.

The late indefatigable warden has made a contract with the Navy Department for supplying the sailors with shoes and slippers, which we think will no doubt prove beneficial both to the government and the institution, and be the means of enabling it to defray its own expenses without taking anything from the common treasury, and do away with that prejudice which has heretofore existed against the institution, in consequence of work done there being brought into competition with that manufactured by the enterprising and industrious mechanics of the district, because there are no establishments here which enter into competition for that class of work, leaving to them the full field for their manly enterprise in supplying the more immediate demand of their fellow citizens by whom they are surrounded. We are fully impressed with the importance of the board of inspectors having a controlling influence in the appointment of persons connected with the institution, and would respectfully recommend the passage of a law giving to them a confirmatory power, leaving to the warden the power of selection, which would tend in a great measure to act as a balance wheel in its general affairs. We have respectfully suggested to Congress the propriety of providing, by law, for the removal to this prison of all persons convicted in the different States of offences against the United States, for which confinement in the penitentiary is prescribed as the penalty of the law; but the suggestion has never been favorably entertained by your honorable bodies. We have been, heretofore, led to make this suggestion because we believed it would be less expensive to the United States, and tend greatly to augment the means of this institution, and enable it to defray its own expenses; to this opinion we yet adhere, but leave it to the wisdom of Congress to act in the premises as they may deem meet and proper. The warden is the receiving and disbursing officer, and his accounts, by the aid of an efficient clerk, are kept with system and regularity. The duties of the clerk are to keep the books of the institution, take charge of and safely keep all articles bought for or manufactured at the penitentiary, and to keep a distinct account with each department of the prison; also, to see that the accounts are properly kept in the different shops for labor done by the convicts, and copy them into the regular office books, and have them ready at all times for inspection by the board. Those respective duties have been performed to our entire satisfaction, and we are happy to be able to bear testimony to the fidelity of those to whom this duty has been assigned.

Since our last report, it becomes our melancholy duty to inform you of the demise of Robert Coltman, esq., the late warden, and of the appointment of C. P. Sengstack, who has given strong evidences that he will, after a little experience, manage the institution systematically, and thereby aid in making it defray its own expenses, which will reflect credit upon his judgment and under-

standing.

We cannot close this report without begging leave to say that it affords us extreme pleasure of bearing testimony to the fidelity of the subordinates of the institution.

Respectfully submitted.

R. JONES, HENRY HAW, G. W. PHILLIPS. Penitentiary for the District of Columbia, City of Washington, January 1, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to submit for your consideration my report, in part, of 1847. You are aware that I became head of this institution on the 22d of November last, occasioned by the death of the late warden, Mr. Robert Coltman; from my installation and up to the present time, making but six weeks. The detail of matter connected in the various branches, I found it indispensably necessary to become thoroughly acquainted with, or at least so far as was in my power for the short space of time allotted me. In order to inquire into the system of my deceased predecessor, and to determine whether it was conformable with the laws of Congress and regulations established by the board of inspectors, with all the modifications since occurring, to arrive at this conclusion with a proper construction, I found it no easy task, and up to the present, I have not decided as to the entire course which I may deem it necessary to pursue, but with a fixed determination, so far as the perogative of my power extends, in conjunction with the laws, rules, and regulations established, to carry out such a system as may in future prove advantageous to the prison.

The financial condition of the prison, as also of the convicts, their number, sex, color, employment, &c., I beg leave to refer you to the report given by the clerk, whom I repose the utmost confidence in, and which, I have no doubt, you are all familiar with his competency, promptitude, and excellent deportment otherwise; and should any circumstance occur, or become apparent in future, by a more close examination to be found delinquent, the high regard I entertain for the board of inspectors, my long and intimate knowledge of their high respectability, as well as business qualifications, never should induce me to even suspect a negligence of duty, but the whole blame would rest upon the wardens, heretofore, they being the only bonded officers of the institution, the buying, selling, and contracting, coming entirely under

their control.

The health of the prisoners since under my supervision, I must refer you to the physician's report. As a professional gentleman, I have no doubt you will corroberate with my views, knowing him to be one of the most eminent practitioners of the present day, which should be regarded as a fortunate circumstance to the prison for the selection of his services. The moral condition of the convicts, I refer you to the chaplain's report, coming as it does almost entirely under his instructions, which, in my short acquaintance, his lessons have had their good effect, as I have observed the general conduct of the convicts to be very orderly; and, indeed, what few circumstances of charges for delinquencies of conduct and otherwise, I found a gentle reproof to be attentively listened to, and an improvement afterwards the result.

In closing this brief communication, I truly hope, gentlemen,

to have your cooperation in aid of the prompt and energetic discharge of the government of the institution.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. P. SENGSTACK.

To the Board of Inspectors, Of the Penitentiary for the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON, January 7, 1848.

I am happy to report that, owing to the careful system of hygeine, practised in regard to the prisoners, they have experienced their usual good health; and I am firmly persuaded that less disease occurred among them than would have happened to the same persons out of the penitentiary. Even in the autumnal months, when malarious diseases are most frequent, and in a locality bordering on the Potomac on one side and an extensive marsh on the other, where those influences might he expected to be most active, there has existed no case of fever so serious as to require being placed in the hospital. No contagious disease has appeared during the year, and not a single death has occurred among the prisoners.

Dyspeptic affections have been more frequent than usual; but, under strict dietetic management and appropriate medicine, have done well. In this place I may be allowed to suggest the importance of enlarging the prison enclosure, (which the adjoining vacant grounds enable Congress at small expense to do,) by which prisoners, laboring under diseases of the digestive organs, or any cases where open air and exercise are needed for their recovery, might be employed in horticulture or some other agricultural pursuit; and might thus, while benefitting themselves, be useful to others in producing for their use a greater variety of wholesome vegetables, so highly conducive to the health of prisoners.

Very respectfully, BENJ. S. BOHRER, M. D.

To Inspectors of Penitentiary,

District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON, January 1, 1848.

Gentlemen: In making this my annual report of the condition of the prisoners in this institution, permit me to say that the past year has been marked by good deportment of the prisoners, contentment, and quietness.

I believe that great good has been done by the regular Sabbath instructions, and all appear to be thankful for the attention paid to

their religious and moral welfare.

I have a school in operation, assisted by some of the prisoners; a number has been taught to read the past year.

It is due to the late warden, Mr. Coltman, (and his death has

deprived us of a valuable officer,) and the officers under him, that by their strict attention to the rules and regulations of the institution, much good has been done and the wants of the prisoners well attended to.

The present warden, I have no doubt, will carry out all of the

rules and regulations of the institution now in operation.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN B. FERGUSON, Chaplain.

To BOARD OF INSPECTORS
Of U. S. Penitentiary, Washington, D. C.

Office of the Penitentiary,

January 4, 1848.

Gentlemen: I herewith submit my annual statement, exhibiting the financial condition of this institution, with a journal of con-

victs, for the year ending the 31st of December, 1847.

No. 1 shows the cash receipts and expenditures of the institution; No. 2, the income from the several workshops; No. 3, the actual amount of provision, clothing, &c., consumed by the prisoners; No. 4, the total income from the labor of convicts, and expenses incurred for the support of the prison; No. 5, a journal of convicts showing the number in confinement at the commencement of, received during, and remaining in confinement at the end of the year; and No. 6, a tabular statement showing the number convicted of each crime, how employed, &c. You will observe that the income from the shoe factory is considerably less than last year. This difference, in my opinion, is owing to the large number of prisoners discharged during the year, many of whom were the most available hands employed in that branch of mechanism.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CRAVEN ASHFORD, Clerk.

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To the BOARD OF INSPECTORS
Of the Penitentiary for the Dist. of Columbia.

Penitentiary for the District of Columbia in account current with the United States.

DR.

To balance in the treasury of the United States and undrawn, December 31, 1846	\$5,111 46 600 00 7,389 46 8,576 78	By balance due the warden on settlement of his account, December 31. 1846. By amount paid for clothing for prisoners. By amount paid for tools and materials to be worked up in carpenter's shop. By amount paid for tools and materials to be worked up in broom factory. By amount paid for tools and materials to be worked up in shoe factory. By amount paid for rations. By amount paid incidental expenses, including stationery, books, postage, &c. By amount paid officers their salaries. By amount paid discharged convicts. By amount paid bill of repairs for penitentiary wharf. By amount paid for improvements and repairs. By amount paid for new carriage for use of the penitentiary, and for horse feed. By amount paid for junk. By amount paid for fuel and lights.	\$98 00 319 50 139 60 35 90 3,352 00 1,343 20 101 00 9,524 6 60 00 600 00 105 90 273 60 36 11 47 40 652 20
To balance in hands of warden and unexpended, December 31, 1847.	\$298 59	By balance in hands of warden and unexpended, December 31, 1847	16,689 68 298 59
To balance in the treasury of the United States and undrawn, December 31, 1847	4,689 46	By balance in the treasury of the United States and un- drawn, December 31, 1847	4,489 46
	4,988 05		21,677 70

No. 2.

Statement showing the income from the labor of convicts employed in the different workshops for the year 1847.

Shoe factory.

By amount received and charged for sales of boots and shoes	\$10,069	44
on hand December 31, 1847	1,742	98
To amount of stock on hand December 31, 1846	\$11,812	42
	9,307	72
Balance in favor of shoe factory	\$2,504	70
Carpentry and blacksmithing.		
By amount received and charged for sales and work done By amount of work done on prison buildings, paint-	\$153	14
ing, &c	238	00
By amount of stock on hand, materials, &c., December 31, 1847	241	62
To amount of stock on hand December 31, 1846	\$632	
	349	55
Balance in favor of carpenters' shop	\$283	31

No. 3.

Statement showing the amount of clothing, rations, &c., consumed by the prisoners during the year 1847.

Clothing.

To amount of clothing on hand December 31, 1846 To amount paid for clothing this year To shoe factory for shoes furnished	\$344 77 319 59 117 75
By amount of clothing on hand December 31, 1847	\$782 11 388 10
Amount consumed	\$394 01
Provisions.	
To amount of provisions on hand December 31, 1846 To amount paid for provisions this year	\$189 87 1,343 27
By amount of provisions on hand December 31, 1847	\$1,533 14 89 75
Amount consumed	\$1,443-39
And hospital.	
To amount of medicines and hospital stores on hand December 31, 1846 To amount paid for medicines and hospital stores this year	\$30 00 47 43
By amount of medicines and hospital stores on hand December 31, 1847	\$77 43 11 15
Amount consumed	* \$66 28

Statement showing the income from the labor of convicts, and the ordinary expenditures for the support of the Dr.

Penitentiary for the year ending December 31, 1847.

Cr.

To amount of rations consumed by the prisoners	\$1,443 39	By shoe factory for	\$2,504 7 283 2
victs	394 01		2,787 9
and office	652 25 273 68 60 00	By balance, excess of expenditures over income	9,727 3
age, &c	101 01 9,524 68		
sick, &c	66 28		
	12,515 30		12,515 30
To balance, excess of expenditures over income	\$9,727 39	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

CRAVEN ASHFORD, Clerk of the Penitentiary.

No. 5.

JOURNAL

CONVICTS IN THE PENITENTIARY, D. C.,

IN ALL THE YEAR 1847.

No. 5.

Journal of convicts in the Penitentiary for the District of Columbia born, age, where convicted, term of sentence,

Number.	Names.	When received.	Sex and color.	Where born.	Age.	Where convicted.
1 2	S. S A. T. B	Mar. 19, 1840 April 9, 1842	Mulatto man. White man	Washington, D. C. Kentucky	32 27	Washington, D. C. Alexandria
3 4 5 6 7 8	W. N C. B McK. D J. C J. B G. R	Mar. 21, 1843 Nov. 29, 1843 Mar. 15, 1844 Do April 2, 1844 Ap'l 15, 1844	Do Do Mulatto man. Black man	Dist. of Columbia. Virginia Georgetown, D. C. Maryland Do Alexandria	50 21 29 22	Washington Alexandria Washington Do Do Alexandria
9 10 11 12	A. M J. S R. S R. C., alias R. M.	June 4, 1844 Do Do June 20, 1844	Mulatto man. White man Do Do	Virginia	40 34 22 21	Do Do Do Washington
13 14	T. B H. W., alias W. B.	Nov. 18, 1814 Do	Black man Do	Maryland	53 20	Do
15 16 17 18 19	J. McK R. M A. B A. H W. S. W	Do Do Nov. 26, 1844 Dec. 14, 1844 Jan. 6, 1845	White man Do Black man Black boy White man		14	
20 21	A. R J. T., alias W. T.	Mar. 22, 1845 Do	Mulatto man. Black man	Washington, D. C. Maryland	30 25	Do
22 23 24 25 26	J. B. F	Do Mar. 24, 1845 Mar. 27, 1845 July 1, 1845 Do	White man Do Do Yellow man Black man	Virginia	62 25	Do Do Do Do
27 28 29 30 31 32 33	L. L S. K W. B W. B J. S J. B	Do Sept. 3, 1845 Dec. 10, 1845 Dec. 11, 1845 Do Do Do Dec. 12, 1845	Do Do Mulatto boy Mulatto man Black man Mulatto boy White man	Maryland New York Dist. of Columbia Georgetown, D. C. Washington, D. C. Maryland. North Carolina	21 15 26	Do Do
34 35 36 37	J. H	Dec. 17, 1845 Do Dec. 19, 1845 Dec. 27, 1845	Black man Mul'to woman Yellow man White man	Georgetown, D. C. Massachusetts Maryland Virginia	19 23 34	Do
38 39 40 41 42 43	J. C T. G J. W. S	Dec. 31, 1845 Jan. 7, 1846 Jan. 13, 1846 Jan. 16, 1846 Do Mar. 6, 1846	Do Black man White man Do Mulatto man. Black man	Do'	26 39 35 37 29 30	Do Do Do
44 45	G. K M. D., alias	Do Mar. 15, 1846	Mulatto man. Mul'to woman	Do	48	
46	M. B. J. G., alias J. R.	Mar. 25, 1846	White boy	Do	18	

No. 5.

in all the year 1847, with the time of reception, sex and color, where crime, employment, and discharge.

No. of times convicted to this prison.	Crime.	Term of sentence.	Employment.	When discharged.
3 1	Larceny Do	9 years 13 years	Shoe-making.	Pardoned Jan
,	Do	4 years	Do	15, 1847. Mar. 21, 1847
1	Burglary and larceny	14 years	Broom-making.	Mar. 21, 1041
2	Larceny	4 years	Shoe-making.	
3	Do	3 years	Baking	Mar. 15, 1847
1	Do	6 years	Shoe-making.	
1	Do	4 years	Baking.	
1 2	Burglary	14 years	Carpentry. Shoe-making.	
ĩ	Do	4 years	Carpentry.	
î	Larceny	3 years	Shoe-making	June 20, 184
9	Danalour	Бугоруа	Cooking	
2	Burglary Larceny	5 years	Cooking. Shoe-making	Nov. 18, 184
2	Do	3 years	Laborer	Nov. 18, 184
1	Do	3 years	Shoe-making	Nov. 18, 184
1	Do	3 years	Do	Nov. 26, 184
1	Manslaughter	3 years	Do	Dec. 14, 184
1	Obtaining goods on false pretences.	2 years	Shoe-binding	Jan. 6, 184
3	Larceny	3 years	Shoe-making.	
2	Do	5 years	Laborer.	
1 00	Do	3 years	Shoe-making.	
4	Do	6 years	Do	
1	Receiv'g stolen goods		Do	Mar. 27, 184
1	Manslaughter	6 years	Do	
1	Assault with intent to kill.	3 years	Do	
, 1	Larceny	2 years		June 30, 184
1	Do	2 years	Shoe-making	Sept. 3, 184
1 4	Do	1 year and 4 mo's		April 9, 184
1	Do	1 1 1 1 1		April 11, 184 June 11, 184
1	Do			Mar. 11, 184
1	Burglary	5 years & 6 mo's	Do	
2	Horse stealing		Do	Dec. 16, 184
1	Larceny	2 years 1 year and 5 mo's	Washing & mend'g	
1	Burglary and larcen			May 18, 184
1	Manslaughter	7 years	Shoe-making.	
1	Do	. 6 years	Do	
2	Burglary			Par. Apr. 4, '4
2	Forgery and larceny			
1 2	Assault and battery,	1 year and 6 mo's 2 years	Do	July 16, 184
2	with intent to kill.	a yours	12400101	
, 1	Larceny	. 1 year	Laborer	March 6, 184
1	Do	. 1 year		Mar. 15, 184
1	Assault with intent	3 years	. Shoe-making	Pardoned Ap

No. 5—Continued.

Number.	Names.	When received.	Sex and color.	Where born.	Age.	Where convicted.
47	J. B., alias J. H. S.	April 13, 1846	Black man	Washington, D. C.	23	Alexandria
48 49 50 51	J. L	April 25, 1846 June 19, 1846 June 27, 1846 July 8, 1846	Do Black boy Mulatto boy Mulat. woman	Alexandria Maryland Washington, D. C. Georgetown, D. C.	17 12	Do Do Do
52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63	J. B	Nov. 20, 1846 Nov. 20, 1846 Dec. 12, 1846 Dec. 24, 1846 Mar. 5, 1847 Mar. 15, 1847 Mar. 15, 1847 Mar. 22, 1847 Mar. 29, 1847 Mar. 30, 1847 April 27, 1847	White man Black man Black woman. Mulatto man Black man Vhite man Do Do Mulatto man. Mulatto man. White man		43 19 31 23 23 23 36 35 22 27	Do Washington, D. C. Do
64 65 66 67	J. P	April 27, 1847 June 25, 1847 June 25, 1847 July 1, 1847	Do Mulatto man. Mulatto boy Black man	Do Alexandria Do Washington, D. C.	21 17	Do
68 69 70 71 72 73	N. S	Dec. 9, 1847 Dec. 9, 1847 Dec. 11, 1847 Dec. 13, 1847 Dec. 13, 1847 Dec. 14, 1847	Do Black woman. Black man Yellow man Black man	Do Maryland Georgetown, D. C Washington, D. C Maryland Do	25	Do Do Do Do

No. 5—Continued.

No. of times convicted to this prison.	Crime.	Term of sentence.	Employment.	When discharged.
2	Larceny	2 years	Shoe-making:	
1	Felony	7 years	Baking.	
1	Larceny	1 year	Shoe-making	June 19, 1847
1	Do	1 year	Do	June 26, 1847
2	Obtaining goods on false pretences.	1 year	Washing & mend'g	July 8, 1847
1	Forgery	2 years	Blacksmithing.	
4	Larceny	1 year	Shoe-making	Nov. 19, 184
1	Do	1 year	Washing & mend'g	Dec. 11, 184
3	Do	3 years	Shoe-making.	
1	Horse stealing	3 years	Do	
1	Larceny	1 year and 3 mo's	Do	
1	Burglary	3 years	Do	
2	Larceny	6 years	Do	
1	Do	9 years	Do	
1	Forgery	1 year	Do	
1	Do	8 years	Do	de fluction tole
1	Counterfeit'g United States coin.	3 years	Do	
1	Do	6 years	Do	
2	Burglary and larceny	4 years	Do	
1	Larceny	2 years	Do	
1	Assault and battery, with intent to kill.	2 years	* Do	
4	Larceny	2 years	Do	
1	Do	1 year	Do	
1	Do	1 year	Washing & mend'g.	
2	Do	1 year and 6 mo's		
2	Do	1 year and 6 mo's		
5	Do	2 years	Do	

No. 6.

Tabular statement and recapitulation, showing the number of whites ployed in each branch of mechanism; the number of times conthe commencement of, and remaining at the end of, the year

	Whi	ites.	Blac	eks.				W	Vhere
Crimes.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Virginia.	District of Columbia.	Maryland.	New York.	France.
4 for larceny 4 for assault with intent to kill 4 for manslaughter 7 for burglary 2 for obtaining goods on false pretences 1 for receiving stolen goods 4 for forgery 1 for felony 2 for horse stealing 2 for counterfeiting	10 1 1 5 2 1 1 3		29 3 3 2 1 	1	3 1 1 2 2 1 1 2	23 3 2 2 1 1 	11 2 2	2	1
	26		42	5	14	34	16	2	1

RECAPITULATION.

Number of prisoners confined in the penitentiary January 1, 1847	56 17
Discharged by expiration of sentence	73
Remaining in the penitentiary December 31, 1847	43

No. 6.

and blacks convicted for each crime; where born; the number emvicted and sentenced to this prison; the number in confinement at 1847.

born.						ere co					Ho	w em	ploye	d.			
Ireland.	Massachusetts.	Kentucky.	North Carolina.	New Hampshire.	Washington city.	Alexandria.	Clarksburg, Va.	Shoe-making	Broom-making.	Carpentry.	Tailoring.	Blacksmithing.	Washing and mending.	Baking.	Cooking.	Laborers.	Hospital.
1	1	1	1	1	39 4 3 4 2 2 1 3	4 3 1 1 1 1	2	33 3 4 3 1 1 1 3 2	1	2	1 1 		1	2	1	3 1	1
1.	2	1	1	1	60	11	2	53	1	2	2	1	5	3	1	4	1

Of the whole number in this prison in all the year, are— Convicted and received for the first time. Do for the second time. Do for the third time.	49
	12
Do for the third time	16
	4
Do for the fourth time	
Do for the fifth time	

CRAVEN ASHFORD, Clerk of the Penitentiary.

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